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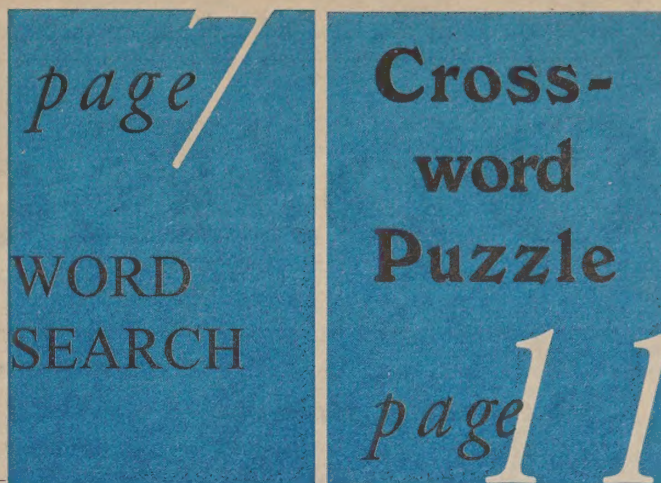
FREE

# THE VOICE

WORCESTER STATE COLLEGE

October 29, 2002

"A free voice never dies"



## INSIDE

Op/Ed  
Pg 2

Letter to the  
Editor  
Pg 3

From Page 1  
Pg 5

Campus News  
Pg 5 & 6

Music, Movies &  
More  
Pgs 8 & 9

The Painted Word  
Pg 10

What is  
the  
"dilly,"  
Yo?

Email us at  
studentvoice  
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## NEXT ISSUE

November 12  
Co-editor,  
Laurie  
Rodrigues  
interviews  
Dean Brownlee  
on new dorms.

## WSC "Highlight" of Ashley's Career

Interview by Amanda Lavorgna and Scott McCarthy, voice staff

Article by Amber Vayo, Co-editor in Chief

Despite her exceptionally full schedule, Worcester State College president, Janelle Ashley, sat for an interview with The Voice writers Amanda Lavorgna and Scott McCarthy, on October 22. Topics discussed were the presence of the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) members on campus, continuing contract problems, Ashley's plans to improve WSC, the alumni association and the president's reasons for coming to WSC.

As many of you know, the NEASC group is on campus updating our accreditation. When asked her feelings about NEASC Ashley responded favorably. She said, "I am a firm believer in the accreditation process" and thinks this to be a positive event. Dr. Ashley had praise for NEASC and was not shocked to hear the positive comments students gave during a NEASC meeting. She also stated that though Worcester State has done self-evaluations, it was beneficial to the college that a group such as NEASC is here.

Moving to an on-going problem at WSC, Ashley was asked her opinion on the current contract problem facing non-teaching faculty (librarians, administrators, etc). Ashley began by saying she is "pleased that the faculty contracts have been funded," and hopes future negotiations (set for 2003) will go well. When questioned about the failure of the state of Massachusetts to fund all contracts Ashley responded, "obviously they're very hurt, but I've not seen anything that has had an adverse effect on the work that they do...(they're) continuing to work hard." Ashley is pleased with the faculty's dedication in the face of past and current contract disputes. She noted that, "I have been very impressed since I have been here by the individuals who work day and night and it doesn't seem to matter that all the time they're picking up the load for other people." She spent several minutes professing her admiration for faculty members who never stopped teaching though they worked approximately three years without contracts.

Dr. Ashley was then asked how she planned to improve WSC. Her plans include, "doing our best to attract and retain the best faculty," to "look at which career fields our students are planning to move into," and to "do what we need to do to make sure we have the best preparation available." She also stated that we are "lucky to be living in this part of the country" because access to adjunct faculty members is not a problem. There was a heavy emphasis on keeping up with current shifts in popular career choices and staying technologically advanced.

Also mentioned were possible cuts in bilingual education and how they might affect majors offered at our college. Ashley said that though she understands this is a school that teaches many educators she does not feel that bilingual education cuts will affect WSC because we will still be training teachers. She feels that there will continue to be a need for ESL and foreign language teachers. Amanda Lavorgna asked how Ashley felt about bilingual education cuts on a personal level and coming from Texas. Ashley responded that she did not feel cuts were going to have much of an affect on schools.

Other improvements discusses were up coming building renovations. Ashley commented on the, "one stop shopping center" set to appear in the Administration building to make registration, financial aid, etc. The plan is to move the financial aid and registrars' offices to the Administration building so students will not have to run all around the campus when registering and paying for classes. Ashley also mentions the new dorms set to go up in the spring. She discussed the plan to remove some beds from Dowden Hall in order to make the building less crowded.

Ashley also mentioned that she was impressed by the alumni association's contributions to the college. She says that the private donations have increased in the past five years because the Worcester

continued on page 5

## WSC Students Respond Favorably to NEASC

By Amanda Lavorgna  
VOICE STAFF

On October 21, 2002, students from selected majors were asked to join Dr. Suman Singha of the University of Connecticut. Dr. Singha is a member of the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) site team and wanted to discuss the curriculum, advising, the Honors program and the overall teaching and learning experience at WSC. Students represented many fields of study ranging from English, history and Education, to chemistry, biology, business, computer science, nursing and occupational therapy. Dr. Singha wanted a variety of students to speak on behalf of the programs at WSC in order to get a realistic account of Worcester State and to update its accreditation.

The first issue of the morning was advising and how students felt about the opportunities available. Many students felt that not only were their advisors extremely helpful, but the entire staff of any given department was always willing to help out a student with any questions. Students mentioned that they feel like they have established real relationships with their advisors, as well as their professors, which has been a positive influence for the students. After hearing only positive comments, Dr. Singha interrupted asking, "Do you mean to tell me no one in this room has had a problem with advisors?" He was answered by a chorus of "yep" and "that's right."

The conversation then moved on to the Honors program, which students felt needed some improvement. Many students wanted to join the Honors program as freshmen, yet, the program is so inflexible and its required classes interfere with major/minor courses. Also, another issue raised about the Honors program was that it is only offered to freshmen. Worcester State has many non-traditional students, a large percentage of whom are transfer students. It would be more beneficial if the Honors program accepted transfer students and allowed students to join throughout the years, as they improve academically.

As students spoke honestly about the overall educational value of Worcester State College, Dr. Singha was pleased and said that it sounded as if we were, "a well put together, and a very strong institution." Each student in attendance at this meeting, myself included, had nothing but praise to offer for the faculty and the programs that are provided here. Faculty members were noted as being highly approachable, very helpful in situations like tutoring and advising, as well as wonderful human beings. Students at WSC feel that faculty members are extremely generous with the time and effort they put into teaching. The faculty is a group of smart, dedicated, well-defined, intellectuals, who take that extra step, whether it be giving out their email address, home phone number, or staying with a student into after school hours in order to aid them in any way possible.

A problem mentioned by many students was the inavailability of several of the computer labs. Students majoring in Spanish, computer science, and chemistry had the most to say on this subject because they require special software programs to complete their work. Dr. Singha, however, noted that WSC students seem to be working too hard when several students expressed dismay that the library was only open until 5 pm on Friday nights. Though students were able to laugh about the need to be on campus on weekends many pointed out that this college has a large percent of non-traditional students and commuters who require access to campus facilities at odd hours. One student stated that, "I have two kids, if I want to get work done I have to be on campus." While the use of the library and computer labs as simply places to study is not terribly pressing, it is necessary that chemistry, Spanish, and computer science majors to have access to software needed to complete their assignments.

During the final minutes of the meeting, Dr. Singha was pleased to announce, "I don't think I've ever sat down with this many students and heard so much praise about an institution." He kept referring to Worcester State as a "wonderful institution," and that is something of which we should be proud. Congratulations to the faculty and staff of Worcester State, thanks for making this a wonderful experience for the student body and keep up the good work.



# Op/Ed

## Editorial/Opinion

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The Student Voice is an independent news magazine published throughout the school year with funds procured through advertising and provided by the Student Government Association of Worcester State College, 486 Chandler St., Worcester, MA 01602. The news magazine is published every other Tuesday and is printed by Turley Publications. The Student Voice is serviced for national advertising by Cass Communications and is listed in Oxbridge Communication, Inc's Directory of the College Student Press in America. The Student Voice takes no responsibility for unsolicited material or manuscripts submitted.

The Student Voice welcomes letter, essays, and articles provided they are typed and are submitted with a name and means to contact the author. Any pieces that are deemed questionable are brought before the executive board. In the event of a tie the Editor-in-Chief has final decision. Letters run at the discretion of the Editor-In-Chief and are subject to editing for style and length. The Editor reserves the right to republish any works at their discretion.

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**Laurie Rodrigues**

## Mean People Suck.

Co-Editor's observational finding for the week of October 21, 2002:

People are senselessly mean.

After being on the receiving end of several random conflicts, excessive drama, general irascibility, and various and sundry other forms of aggravation for the past week and a half, I have discovered my findings to be irrefutable.

Case in point:

On the way to dinner with my co-editor last Friday night we had the pleasure of encountering an exceptionally irate U.S. Postal Service employee, who incidentally, happened to be driving an eighteen-wheel mail truck. My co-editor and myself assessed the situation, and it appeared that a car that was in front of the postal truck wasn't moving as quickly as would have been appreciated. In a sudden fit of rage, the irksome truck driver heaved an empty wine cooler bottle out his driver's side window, hitting the wrong vehicle altogether. The bottle bounced off of the SUV's roof with a resounding 'crack!' We were preserved from the fray by Amber's mighty Mitsubishi; well, that, and the fact that we were heading in the opposite direction altogether. The perpetrating Toyota, whom the postal worker had intended on hitting, sped off, unscathed, into the proverbial sunset. Meanwhile, back at the intersection, the remaining motorists exchanged lengthy vexations before continuing on their respective ways; in doing this, they nearly caused a multi-vehicle collision. As Amber had tactfully put it, the postal guy just went (...wait for it...) postal. Ha!

Little did I know, this episode was only one in a series of approaching altercations; a mere prologue to the veritable plethora of conflict I had yet to experience in the coming days.

Case in point #2:

How many people reading this right now are courteous enough to hold the door for another human being? Well, I didn't seem to encounter any of you this past week.

I don't know if these people were upset, angry, distracted, or if they all just weren't hugged enough as children. Whatever the case, door holding appears to be going out of style here at Worcester State.

To compound that point on common courtesy, I definitely lost count of the number of times that I was cut in line while waiting to order my (crucial) morning cup of coffee. These people would just stroll on up in front of me, just like that. Like it's their job, for god's sake. Don't get me wrong, I attempted defending my territory with the usual barrage of assorted rude remarks. Much to my chagrin, my

protests were met with only quizzical looks. I surmise that these people assumed that I was talking to myself.

My last week and a half has brought me angry emails, verbal confrontations, alleged scandals, slamming doors, crying, yelling, and all sorts of dramatic goings-on. They seriously violated the comfort zone within the realm of my remote vicinity. I would like to know how this happened. How have I, so effectively, managed to incur such an abundance of bad karma? Was it my taking over (part of) the Voice's editorship? Has my new occupation come with a curse? Am I being tested?

Last time I checked, the better part of classical philosophy maintains that man is the rational animal on this forsaken planet. I've heard us referred to as such on several occasions; so, why all the emotional turmoil, folks? I understand that many people believe that 'all the world's a stage,' but Jesus tap dancing Christ, all this drama is enough to keep me from going to the theatre for years to come.

Maybe we're all just stressed out; midterm season is upon us, after all. Maybe some of us feel victimized, betrayed, or even abandoned. I can understand the pain, but until now, I've never fully realized our tendency to take it all out on the innocent. The next time I find myself disgruntled, I'm going to think twice before I drop a door on some poor, unsuspecting Joe.

Nonetheless, I'm no worse for it all. I'm in one piece and I'm still breathing, which is definitely a good thing (please excuse the Martha Stewartism). In the future, I intend to deflect the reception of any negative vibes with a combination of my warped sense of humor and a little rationality, however contradictory that may seem.

Alright, so after this healthy bit of venting, I leave you with a few kindergarten-inspired words of wisdom:

1. try your best to play nice
2. don't cut in line
3. hold the door!

Now, I'm not Confucius (although I can think of a certain individual who believes he is), and I realize that I'm waxing philosophic here, but those are some pretty good rules to live by!

**Amber Vayo**

I was driving to school yesterday when I heard Aretha Franklin come over the radio. After hearing several choruses of "R-E-S-P-E-C-T," I realized I was listening to a woman who had it all figured out.

There are many times in life when people disagree with each other, but they key to co-existing peacefully is respect. For example, I am an opinionated person and I state my opinions forcefully some would call me over-bearing), but that is not because I think everyone else is wrong. I speak my mind because I expect people to speak theirs and to take mine for what they are worth—my opinions.

When someone disagrees with me I give him or her the respect I would like that person to give me. That is only fair. I do not immediately dismiss what said person say because I do not believe untested convictions are worth much.

A recent letter to the editor by Barbara O'Leary (seen in the following pages of this issue) is a perfect example of how someone can respectfully disagree with

someone else. Ms. O'Leary wrote a clear, logical and mature letter to the editor. Because of this I was able to step back, without being offended and re-examine my ideas.

I suppose my love of free speech comes from being raised in my grandmother's law office (my family doesn't believe in day care). I can remember being five-years-old and having my grandmother and uncle reading me the Constitution (we're a political family) and tell me about American history.

As an adult, and as co-editor of a college newspaper, my motto has become, "I may disapprove of what you say, but I will defend to my death, your right to say it." The freedom of speech is just one right guaranteed to the American public. Respect ensures this right and many others.

The sign of a mature person is the ability to disagree without resorting to petty insults and personal attacks. You may or may not have seen the new quote on the front of this newspaper, "A free voice never dies," this is a free voice and it is voices like Barbara O'Leary's that will keep it so. My thanks to Barbara O'Leary for being one of the people I have met on this campus who can state disagreements in a professional and logical manner.

### Contact Information

If you have a story idea or are interested in becoming a member of *The Voice* staff, call us on-campus at x8589 or off-campus at 754-2313. If you would like to submit an article, poem, letter to the editor, or other work, please email us at [studentvoice@worchester.edu](mailto:studentvoice@worchester.edu)

Want your opinions published?  
Send them to us.



# In Your Opinion...

## Reaction to Romney

Letter to the Editors

I just read Amber Vayo's opinion on the Romney-Healey Bilingual Ed Cuts, in the October 18th Edition of the Voice. I am glad that Ms. Vayo wrote this article, because I love to share my opinions. However, I hate that she wrote this article, because it is only one-sided. The opinion page is on page 2, not on the front page. In my opinion, I think the idea of ending our failed Bilingual program is a wonderful idea. With all the budget cuts that Swift has given to us, its about time we seem some light, at the end of the tunnel. I don't know what school, Ms. Vayo went to, but at my high school, (Marlborough High), there were no esl students in any classes that I ever attended. The esl students were always in one class, all day long where they spoke only in their native tongue, thus by the time they graduated, they knew no more English then when they arrived. And after 5 years in an English speaking high school, thats a waste of our (now even more than ever) tax payers money. Also, the esl students hardly ever interacted with English-speaking students, thus limiting themselves socially. Why are we paying teachers to speak Spanish, and Portuguese, and not English? In my high school, we wasted 10 minutes every morning, by having to do the announcements in English, then Spanish, then Portuguese. There is no need for that. And while I respect Ms. Vayo's opinion, It is just that, An Opinion. And it shouldn't be on the front page, where people who don't understand the flip side of the debate, can be lead, or manipulated, at the voters station, with only one side of the story. Romney isn't trying to end bilingual education, he's trying to change it for the better.

I do not know what will happen with my email, however, I thank you for taking the time to read it, and I hope I didn't offened any one.  
Sincerely,  
Barbara O'Leary

## Don't Forget to Vote!!!!

In case you've missed the political ads bombarding us on TV and radio, there is an election coming up. On November 5, Massachusetts will hold general elections for congressmen, state representatives and governor. The most anticipated race, or at least the most publicized, seems to be between the two most prominent gubernatorial candidates Shannon O'Brien and Mitt Romney. O'Brien and Romney have had several debates, some of them including Libertarian party candidate Carla Howell and Green part candidate Jill Stein. Advertisements to get involved with the Romney-Healey campaign can be seen around the college campus.

Many students are unaware of current elections and issues. For an unbiased view of each candidate's public statements and voting records you can go to [www.issues2000.org](http://www.issues2000.org) (the issues are current, even though the date is off). This web site breaks down the races by state and then by race (senatorial, etc). The site offers candidate's records with no political commentary and breaks down the issues into categories (John Smith's on crime prevention, etc).

Voting is an important responsibility of citizens. Unfortunately, many people do not vote, even in a state as known for its politics as Massachusetts. Throughout the years the right to vote had been hard-won for many groups. African-American males could not vote until the 14th amendment in the 1860s, women couldn't vote until the 19th amendment in 1920, and 18 year olds didn't earn the right to vote until the 1970s.

Though voting is an integral part of American life (we just voted on a test date in my math class) and we flaunt our republican form of government (the United States is technically a Republic, not a Democracy), we have low voter turn out rates every year.

It doesn't matter who you vote for, as long as you vote for as long as you're doing so because you fell your candidate has the best plans for the state and country. November fifth is voting day. "Vote early, vote often." Just vote!

## Poetry Contest

As you all know, the deadline for the Dr. A. Barbara Pilon poetry contest was last Friday, October 25, 2002. Hopefully, if we are really lucky, the winners are to be posted on Thursday, October 31, 2002. For those of you who are Keats fans, this Halloween should hold a great deal of value for you, considering that Keats shares his birthday with the best holiday ever!

If you missed the deadline for submission, fear not! You still have the opportunity to share your wonderfully creative prose with students and faculty. On Tuesday, November 5, 2002, at 7 pm, the winners of the contest will be reading their poems in the Eager Lecture Hall. Heed this opportunity is also an OPEN MIC event. Bring your poems! Share your divine inspirations and appreciation for literature.

And yes, refreshments will be served.

## Thoughts From MASSPIRG

Senior Katie Flynn doesn't like the fact that 44 acres of open space are disappearing daily in Massachusetts. That's part of the reason that she, along with a group of other students have been out with clipboards in hand, asking their fellow students to sign onto a petition that urges lawmakers to protect the Massachusetts State Forests and Parks System. "There's so much development springing up everywhere," said Flynn. "Just down the street from my house a plot of land that used to be covered with trees has been cleared to build a new apartment building. The state forests are going to be the only wilderness places that we'll have left, so we have to make sure they're protected."

From the Berkshires to Cape Cod, the Commonwealth is home to some of the most beautiful natural places in the country. This fact isn't lost on Massachusetts residents, who have been visiting the parks in record numbers in recent years. In the past decade, the number of visitors to State Parks and Forests has increased 41%, while the budget has not increased accordingly. The lack of funding has had detrimental effects on many properties.

"Parks aren't just plots of land that can be set aside and not maintained. Some parks are lacking resources as simple as trashcans for visitors to use. Litter and broken glass on the trails can create hazards for hikers," said sophomore Michelle Martiros, another student involved in the project. "People may not realize that the State Parks and Forests are a huge taxpayer investment, and one that we should take care of."

Martiros is a member of MASSPIRG, the Massachusetts Public Interest Research Group, a statewide environmental and consumer rights group that has a chapter on campus. MASSPIRG is one of the statewide environmental groups that are working in a coalition to ensure protections for the Forests and Parks System. Other coalition members include the Appalachian Mountain Club, the Environmental League of Massachusetts, the Massachusetts Audubon Society, and the Massachusetts Sierra Club.

In addition to providing recreational opportunities and a chance to get away from it all, parks and forests in Massachusetts have important ecological value. Myles Standish State Forest is home to the largest stand of the endangered Pitch Pine in New England. Mt. Wachusett State Forest, which is less than an hour north of Worcester, contains some of the last old growth forest in the state and in the northeastern United States.

MASSPIRG students are planning a hike to Mt. Wachusett State Forest on Saturday, November 2nd. Members of the Appalachian Mountain Club will be leading the hike and sharing their knowledge of the mountain with students from Worcester State College and Clark University. If interested, students can email [worcestermasspirg@yahoo.com](mailto:worcestermasspirg@yahoo.com) for more information and to sign up.

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## Video Scavenger Hunt

Nov 8

7pm @ Ministry House

Traveling around Worcester  
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other crazy stuff

# (508) 929-8686 campus ministry House  
email: [gmercier@worcester.edu](mailto:gmercier@worcester.edu)



# Op/Ed

## Land Conservation Based on False Premises

by Mark Wilmot

**Editors' note:** This article appears unedited because the author requested it appear in full.

**Writer's Note:** The following essay-style research article has been condensed from its original version but remains long. Despite its length, the article is substantial in nature, and uncovers a profound relationship between the conservation and environmental movement, the economy, the housing market, and opportunities for the less-privileged and lower classes of society. The fact that these topics touch everyone's life, makes this article especially worthwhile reading.

### The Land Conservation Movement

Step outside any building and you walk upon it. Take a drive in any direction and it surrounds you. What is it? Good, old-fashioned land, and there is still plenty of it to go around, even in Massachusetts and Connecticut. The problem is, everyone wants a piece of it, and once you get a piece, you might not be able to do what you want with it. The reason you can't do what you want with your land is that a tidal wave of community activism, is gathering enough momentum to bring development of remaining open-space and under-utilized land to a standstill. That's not the only bad news either; a study of the conservation issue reveals the conservation movement is damaging the local economies in more ways than one. On top of that, the movement can also be blamed for taking opportunities away from immigrants and the lower classes, and placing the burden of supporting them on the middle class.

### Land Conservation Is Wildly Popular

During the past twenty years, the land conservation movement has blossomed into a giant political and social force, with more than thirty other organized groups working in Massachusetts alone to achieve some type of land conservation. The Massachusetts Land Trust Coalition, the Massachusetts Audubon Society, MASSPIRG, and regional groups such as Charles River Conservancy are just a few of the groups involved. The Audubon Society reports in its Spring 2002 newsletter that Massachusetts has "more local land trusts than any other state in the country," and Connecticut also has their own "posse" of people committed to save the land.

The membership of these conservation groups, and their lobbying efforts are often conducted in concert with the efforts of the environmental movement, which includes the Sierra Club, Greenpeace, and smaller fringe groups opposed to everything from the use of technology and lumber harvesting, to the burning of fossil fuels.

On the surface, the concept of conserving land sounds like a great idea. Few people would argue against preserving national landmarks such as the Grand Canyon or Niagara Falls from development into a super Walmart store, but an in-depth analysis of the conservation movement reveals that it may have more to do with misinformation and politics, than with the public's best interest.

In order to accurately assess the issue, and understand how many acres of land have been "permanently lost" to home-building and profit-driven enterprises, research was undertaken that included a study of recent news stories, a review of conservation group's literature and web sites, a six-hundred mile automobile trip around sections of Massachusetts and Connecticut, and discussions with leaders in the conservation movement.

### Loss Of Personal Property Rights

The results of the research presents a picture that often contradicts the political philosophy that many people in the conservation movement claim to have, especially when it comes to the good of the country, and the health and welfare of the under-privileged.

Land conservation, as well as the closely-associated movements of environmentalism and protecting endangered species often result in the expropriation of personal property and access rights, or the establishment of public land trusts where "the government owns the land." Few people are currently opposed to the conservation movement and its philosophy, even though claims could be made that the goal of land conservation is really about preventing current and future land owners from developing land for useful business purposes and living space.

### Conservation Hurts Housing Market, Effects Minorities

Based on recently released information, a convincing argument can be made for developing land for housing instead of conserving it because of an expanding population that includes thousands of minorities and immigrants who subsist within the lower economic classes. They need housing. People within these groups are often the first to suffer as a result of housing shortages. When a housing shortage exists, many people end up being "warehoused" inside decaying neighborhoods of run-down cities, where the section-8 government voucher program has created a cottage industry for landlords who take advantage of the government vouchers in exchange for providing sub-standard housing. Poor people who complain are rare, after they have a "free" apartment. Owners of "warehouses for poor people" are happy because they have guaranteed income from the government voucher.

Besides the huge swaths of land being placed under government control across America, are many smaller locations being preserved around Massachusetts and Connecticut, which includes more than one thousand acres within the city of Worcester in places such as the Broad is the most dominant economic factor for the nation between now and 2020. If this is true, then the highly successful land conservation movement is placing road blocks in front of

much-needed economic forces, actions that will come back to haunt regional economies within the next few years if it isn't happening already.

### Conservation Has Detrimental Effects

Massachusetts Republican gubernatorial candidate Mitt Romney claimed during the second debate with Democratic candidate Shannon O'Brien that Massachusetts now has the highest debt-to-taxpayer ratio in the nation, an interesting comment that provides the first clue that something is drastically wrong in the state's economy and fiscal management.

Oddly enough, the correlation between a good business environment and the critical housing shortage is seldom considered in context with the conservation movement. Several substantial and perhaps unintended consequences may be overlooked by conservation activists because the highest percentage of individuals in the movements already owns a home, or have a secure place to live, and the highest percentage of people in the movements are employed in non-profit, or public-sector jobs related to education and government. This layer of considerations might lead inquisitive minds to consider that conservation and environmental movements may even include dynamics of the never-ending battle between the haves and have nots of society, and perhaps, anti-capitalism. Other possible causes of not recognizing the latent and detrimental impact of conservation actions may be idealism, shallow ignorance, and even outright elitism, where people use conservation to mask their motive of wanting to keep businesses, low-wage earners, and minorities out of their bedroom communities. No matter what the contributing factors to the success of the movement are, the important link between land development for housing and business, and the health of the economy appears quite authentic.

A brand new survey conducted by Development Counsellors International of New York found that as of September, 2002, Massachusetts is ranked as the third worst place for business in the country, behind California and New York. The states with the most favorable ratings were Texas and North Carolina.

The consequences of not placing home building at the top of the priority list is devastating for any local economy. Recent signs indicate Massachusetts is headed for a major economic downturn and a lack of affordable housing is the primary reason. The critical lack of affordable homes, and low home ownership rates is directly linked to the strength of the regional and state economic engine, and the fiscal health of smaller towns. If massive homebuilding was underway in the region, home prices would be going down instead of going up. If prices of basic housing units went down substantially, hundreds of thousands of people would be able to purchase a home. Construction activity would then lead to the creation of tens of thousands of new jobs, and pour millions of dollars into the economy where it would re-circulate over and over again. As this occurs, money would be added to the state's treasury, and help lower the tax rates. When the supply of new homes reaches an adequate level, slum warehouses and section eight vouchers will no longer be so abundant and attractive to the parties that use them now.

Unfortunately, there is little activity in the housing construction market even though mortgage interest rates are at their lowest levels in thirty years. Most homes built today are larger homes, located on selected parcels of land in the suburbs. These homes are most often priced for the affluent. Many home builders are now even operating under the assumption that they can survive by making a large profit by building just a few high-priced homes each year. The truth is that the housing market is in big trouble, and leadership to change the situation is scarce, especially with pressure from conservation groups. Sales of single-family detached homes and condominiums decreased again during August in Massachusetts, sinking a whopping 12.4 percent. At the same time, the average price of a single family home increased 11.2 percent in one month alone! NBC News reported during its September 28th evening broadcast that mortgage foreclosures are up sixty-four percent from two years ago, indicating that housing costs are much too high for prevailing wages of middle-class home owners, and lower class apartment dwellers.

Reversing A Bad Idea Requires Leadership & Action

continued on page 12



# CN Campus News

ASHLEY from page one

State College community has reached out to the alumni. She mentioned R. Chand specifically, for his dedication and hard work involving the alumni association. She plans on continuing this tradition because "unless you ask, you usually don't get."

With business out of the way Ashley was asked about more personal questions. She says her decision to come to WSC is "the highlight of my career." She enjoys working in public education and has always done so—her last job was as Vice President of Academic Affairs at Stephen F. Austin State University in Texas. Regarding change in residence Ashley says she enjoys the New England weather and is looking forward to the winter. When her interviewers responded skeptically Ashley assured us she knew what snow was and even liked to ski in Colorado. Another reason Ashley mentioned for being fond of New England and choosing to come here is that her daughter lives here.

Overall Dr. Ashley expressed happiness with WSC. She plans to continue the "students first policy" and has praise for the faculty. Though she has not finished her first semester here Dr. Ashley seems to have clear goals for this college and is working hard with the faculty and staff to achieve them.

## Water Watch at Worcester State

By Kathleen Lanphear and Biagio Caretti

For those of you still unfamiliar with Water Watch, a division of AmeriCorps and MASSPIRG, the following article is an explanation of what we do and when we meet. Worcester State College Water Watch meetings are held at the college's Student Center every Monday at 4:30pm. Everyone is welcome and all attendance is appreciated. At meetings we focus on future waterway clean-up projects, stream monitoring and educational activities with area schools.

Currently, we are concentrating our efforts regarding the "Adopt a Stream Program" for Coal Mine Brook in the northwest corner of Worcester. The stream/brook is in serious jeopardy of becoming a contaminated tributary of Lake Quinsigamond. Additionally it is quickly losing its diverse population of aquatic species (e.g. brook trout) due to its proximity to an encroaching city. The "Adopt a Stream Program" has been implemented and is overseen by the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife Department which seeks volunteer organizations like Worcester State Water Watch to help protect our states' waterways. We urge all interested groups to lend their support and time in an effort to restore what is left of this suburban gem.

Worcester State College Water Watch would like to personally thank everyone who participated in the "Make a Difference Day" clean up project on Saturday, October 26th. We had some brave and determined individuals turn out despite the "less than ideal" New England weather. Though the areas covered in South Worcester were relatively small, we successfully cleaned up sections of some of Worcester's most neglected waterways.

Anyone who may be considering joining Worcester State Water Watch, can do so by so attending any of our meetings or may contact Kathleen Lanphear 1-802-598-3151 or Klanphear20@yahoo.com and Biagio (Gino) Caretti 508-792-1284 or bcaretti@worcester.edu



## Student Senate Holds New Elections

**Editors' note:** This article was scheduled to appear in our last issue; however, due to layout problems it was left out. Our apologies to the Senate.

By Mark Wilmot

Worcester State College's student senate, is the main governing body of the Student Government Association (SGA), has started its 2002-2003 session. Senator Sunny Divi, Public Relations Ambassador, a math and biotechnology major, is a veteran of the student senate, and looks forward to another year of overseeing the best interests of Worcester State students. Divi, whose bright smile and enthusiasm for life can often be seen in the Student Center building, wants all WSC students to know "they are invited to watch their senators in action every Thursday afternoon in the Foster Room, located on the third floor of the Student Center building." Senate meetings start at 3:30 p.m. and usually conclude by 5:00.

Divi, a junior, understands how big the world really is after traveling to the United States from India. When asked about his personal philosophy, Divi says, "Life only comes once, so I'm going to enjoy it." Divi says he didn't know anything when he first arrived on campus, but now feels he has "learned so much more because college made me learn." He is excited about the leadership opportunities at Worcester State College and considers serving on the senate an excellent opportunity of which students should take advantage. Divi recently attended a leadership weekend which was hosted by student organizations at the college and says, "I had so much fun, plus I learned about my strong leadership points, as well as my weak points."

Senator Divi, whose goals include being a good person and getting into medicine, gets involved with extra activities such as the senate because, "I feel a need to learn something that can be useful in life, and I learn a lot through the senate. I also learned that I can make changes too."

Divi, explains that the senate's leadership is comprised of an executive board made up of five members. In addition to himself, the current executive

board includes Chairperson Shannon Overcash, Senator Tim Smith, Treasurer, and Senator Valerie Aguiar, Secretary. Joshua Katz, who is the president of the Student Government Association, also attends each senate meeting, and sits at the head table with the senate's executive board. President Katz maintains veto power during all senate meetings. College staff members Kristie DeSanctis and Tim Sullivan are advisors to the senate again this year, facilitating the planning and conduct of most important tasks related to student activities and events.

After serving on the senate, most senators believe the student senate is an especially important part of campus life at Worcester State College because they maintain oversight of all student activities and organizations and approve new clubs and organizations on campus. Two of the most important functions of the senate are to protect the concerns of students and to approve and distribute funds that are collected from student activity fees. Senators are elected during open elections that are normally held twice each year, once in the fall, and once in the spring. Each student class is represented in the senate, and additional senate seats are allocated for commuters.

In the most recent election, Senator Rossy Rodiguez, class of 2003, Senators Jessica Erlandson and Alissa Errede, class of 2004, Senators Kate Carney, Jocelyn Quillen, and Kim Carter, class of 2005, and Senators Derek Tessicini and Jorge Banister, class of 2006, were elected.

In the event that a senate seat becomes vacant, the Student Government President, acting through the advice and recommendation of the executive board, can designate a candidate to serve in the senate providing that the student is in good academic standing. Senator Divi invites students who might be interested in joining the senate to attend the senate meetings to become familiar with the proceedings.





# Campus News

## Special Profile: Officer Wilcox

By Josh Katz

If you have ever seen the *Police Academy* movies, you know whom I'm talking about: He stands 6 feet 5 inches tall and weighs in at slim 285 pounds. He is a seven-year veteran of the Worcester State College police force. His name is Mike Wilcox, aka, "High Tower."

Michael Wilcox was born on December 24, 1959, to George and Lois, and has one sister, Shelleigh. Wilcox is half African-American and half Native-American. He was born and raised in Worcester, where he attended St. Peter Marian High School; there he excelled in varsity basketball and football. Wilcox was one of the first students to transfer from the old St. Peter's High School on Main St. to, the then-new, St. Peter Marian High School.

After graduation, Wilcox attended Eastern Connecticut State College to study Physical Education. Once there, Wilcox decided to change his major from Phys. Ed to English. Wilcox stayed at ECSC for two-years. After his 2<sup>nd</sup> year he left ECSC and decided to enlist in the United States Marine Corps. Wilcox was in the Marine Corps. from 1980 to 1984; during his active duty, he was stationed in Okinawa, Japan for a year and a half year. Wilcox also got to see a lot more of the Far East during his time overseas, visiting the Philippines, Guam, Subic Bay and Korea. When asked about the good and bad points of being in the Marine Corps, Wilcox responded, "There were both good and bad points...but they are way too extensive to get into."

Once Wilcox fulfilled his time in the USMC he returned to Worcester and one of his friends got him a security job working at E.M. Loews (the old Palladium) and the Worcester Centrum working mainly at concerts. After a few years of doing that, Wilcox got a job at the Department of Youth Services (DYS) working with juvenile delinquents.

In 1988, Wilcox got a job at Worcester State College as a custodial engineer. After five years, Wilcox moved to Arizona. After only a year in Arizona, Wilcox returned to his job at Worcester State College. During one of Wilcox's shifts, he decided to look at the job postings board which shows all the jobs that are available at the college. The job of campus police officer appealed to Wilcox.

He took this opportunity and quickly applied. Given Wilcox's extensive background with the USMC, the search committee accepted Wilcox's resume and gave him the job. This would be Wilcox's first job as a Police Officer. "I know I could talk to a student and help them get through a tough situation," Wilcox said, "one on one, as a friend, not an officer." Wilcox believed his training in the USMC, as well as working at DHS, at E.M. Loews and the Centrum, would give him a great advantage due to his past experience working with young adults.

Once hired, Wilcox attended the Massachusetts State Police Academy for training. When asked about the experience, Wilcox reported: "I'll put it to you this way it was interesting!" At the Police Academy, he learned a lot of things that people don't often realize. "You have the power to take someone's freedom away at any given moment," Wilcox remarked, "It's a great deal of power."

During his 16 weeks at the Police Academy, Wilcox raved about the comradery between the recruits. "It's a brotherhood," Wilcox said, "Once you go through it you know everyone has gone through the same thing." Also, Wilcox was able to know the troopers that were training him. He got to hear stories from their experiences and said he learned just as much from their stories as he did from the classes.

The disadvantages of being 6'5", 285 became evident at the academy. The running exercise that the recruits had to do was a tough test for Wilcox. "Running was the most taxing thing I had to do," Wilcox stated.

One more down-fall to the academy was the food. "The food was like road kill," Wilcox said in disgust. However, Wilcox said that attending the academy was one of the best things he has ever done.

Coming back to campus after training was like going on a vacation for Wilcox. He started off on the 11pm to 7am shift, where he got to see all the "adventures" of the college student. During this shift, Wilcox encountered all the drunken students coming home from the bars and the late night extravaganzas. He presently works the 3pm to 11pm shift, but has also been on the 7am to 3pm shift while taking on some overtime. Wilcox says he likes the 3pm to 11pm shift the best. He gets to interact with the students, but doesn't have to deal with the drama that comes after 11:00p.m.

Working all the different shifts, he encountered many different situations, ranging from drugs to alcohol to abuse and to the scariest thing Wilcox has ever dealt with, guns. Some time ago, Wilcox received a phone call from an individual who stated he had a "hand-gun." Wilcox says he wasn't really sure if this individual actually had a gun, but luckily he didn't find out the hard way and defused the situation and got the individual to leave campus. There are many different situations that have various levels of difficulty to handle. "There are many different difficult situations that I have encountered," Wilcox said, "I can't pick one in particular to say was the most difficult."

Being an authority figure, Wilcox has many different roles on campus. First Wilcox has to uphold the rules and regulations of this institution and second to be a peace officer and be able to communicate with the students on any level-regardless of race, religion, age, sex, and sexual preference.

Wilcox, being around students all the time, must develop a certain relationship with them. "I try to build a good rep with the students," Wilcox says, "I want to give them some of my life experiences, so that could possibly help them deal with a situation that may arise, similar to one I have been in."

The campus police officers have a major impact on students through out the years. They are always around, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Wilcox believes he has an impact on the students he interacts with. An outgoing, charismatic man, Wilcox meshes well with the students. The way he handles himself on and off duty shows what type of person he is. Students like him and he communicates well with all in different settings. Whether he is spending time at the athletic fields, the gym, café, or just walking by and saying hello, he is able to know you as a student and a friend rather than an authoritarian.

With any job, there are some minuses. If there was one thing that Wilcox could change, he said he would change the respect factor. He would like to get more respect from others in the college community, the administrative community and the student body. Wilcox feels that he and the other campus police officers are looked at as security officers rather than police officers, yet he has the power to arrest. Sometimes Wilcox feels like he and the other campus police officers are treated as "second hand security officers." He also would personally try to make himself a better officer by upholding the rules and regulations of the institution in a positive manner.

Many people through out the Worcester State College community have impacts on people. Mike Wilcox has a huge impact on the Worcester State Campus. He helps people in times on need, and is always there to lend a hand in any situation. "Mike Wilcox and the rest of the Worcester State College Campus Police Department, we salute you for the excellent job you do to protect and serve us."

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or has life burdened you  
with excess responsibility?  
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# WS Wordsearch

Created by Laurie Rodrigues, Co-editor in chief

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MM

Music, Movies & More

Pop Sux! Korn is here to stay.

By: Jorge Bannister

Mansfield, MA—

It seemed only fitting, that the only appearance by Korn this year would be a cold dreary October night.

In front of 16,000 or more screaming fans, the *Pop Sux Tour* made its only Massachusetts appearance to date and did not disappoint them. Trust Company and Disturbed had much to prove; Trust Company’s first major tour stopped here in Massachusetts, and Disturbed had its first show here since their new album came out. Also, this was Korn’s first appearance since the *Sick & Twisted Tour* in 2000. Each band was working off a recently released album; Trust Company – *The Lonely Position of Neutral*, Disturbed – *Believe* and Korn – *Untouchables*.

The crowd was cold and wet, and had just started to file into their seats, as Trust Company stepped on stage. For thirty minutes they rocked out to six explosive songs off of *The Lonely Position of Neutral*, closing with their hit single, “Downfall.” The crowd, torn between bobbing their heads and pumping their fists, appreciated the openers.

Surprisingly enough, after a short fifteen minutes, the lights dimmed and out came David Draiman and the rest of Disturbed. Exploding through a fifty-minute set, they had the crowd jumping and screaming along to the twisted stories.

I had one problem with Disturbed; Draiman had absolutely no stage presence. Furthermore, he daintily moved around the stage as he belted out the notes. We all know that he has the opportunity to twist and contort his voice just as well live as he does on the album, but he does so with a lack of ferocity. Closing off the set was a gem. Three songs that had the crowd in a frenzy and stirred up Korn were: *Down with the Sickness* (full version), *Prayer*, and *Stupify*. Unfortunately, the last thirteen minutes were the best of the concert thus far.

To the surprise of no one in the venue there was a whole forty-five minute wait between Disturbed and Korn. A long forty-five minute wait for some, such as myself, but others, took advantage of the time because they knew whatever it is Korn had to do was suspenseful.

At 9:10pm, a short movie played on the screen behind the stage; at 9:13pm, sharp, James “Munky” Shaffer, dressed in his usual jumpsuit and dread locks, had the opening riffs of *Here to Stay* bouncing off his guitar and into the P.A. system. As his introduction finished, Brian “Head” Welch, Reggie “Fieldy” Arvizu, David Silveria, and Jonathan Davis all exploded into song in unison. Davis, decked out in a black, long-sleeved shirt adorned with a leather cross and a long, floor-length kilt with a leather Elizabethan cross embellishing both sides, guided by Her Majesty’s Voice (the name of his new microphone stand) to and fro as he left his soul onstage during the eighteen song set (set list at the end). Head, dressed in his black jeans and hooded sweatshirt, had his brand-new, silver Ibanez K-7 swinging

back and forth and just lying there as he played. He even stepped up to the microphone to sing some back-up parts for Davis. Fieldy had his usual attire; football jersey, baggy pants, hat, bandana, and braids, as he held his bass neck straight to the sky and he slapped away. Silveria was in his usual attire as well. He was wearing black shorts with a black T-shirt (which, much to many females’ approval, didn’t last long), along with his Pony sneakers, as he was behind his custom-made, shiny silver Tama Rock-Star drum kit.

The five of them marched through an hour and thirty minutes worth of music with little hesitation or long pauses between songs. Korn kept it new, playing five tracks off *Untouchables*. Failing to disappoint, they also played all-time concert greats; *Clown*, *Adidas*, *Twist*, *Blind*, and *Faggot*. Meanwhile, they played the newest concert favorites; *Trash*, *Got the Life*, *Freak on a Leash*, and *Falling Away From Me*.

One downfall of the set was that Davis had a teleprompter in front of Her Majesty’s Voice. He rarely, if ever, went to it, but the fact that it was there was disappointing.

Time on stage: 1 hour and 30 minutes

- Set List:
- Here To Stay
  - Twist
  - Bottled Up Inside
  - ADIDAS
  - Trash
  - Dead Bodies Everywhere
  - Blind
  - Alone I Break
  - Falling Away From Me
  - No One’s There
  - Clown
  - Faggot
  - Make Me Bad/One/Justin
  - Freak On A Leash
  - Thoughtless
  - Somebody Someone

- Encore:
- Shoots and Ladders
  - Got The Life

Ragtime: Not to be Missed

By M.C. Byszek

VOICE STAFF

*Ragtime*, shown at Foothills Theater, located in downtown Worcester is a must see musical. The ticket price is an affordable \$15 for students with I.D. Discounts are also available for groups and senior citizens. At the matinee show you are likely to see groups of senior citizens and local high school students alike enjoying various theatrical performances. Whether you sees this show on a large Broadway stage or at one of the local theaters this is not to be missed.

*Ragtime*, based on E.L. Doctorow’s best selling novel, is a period piece set primarily in New York during the early twentieth century. It introduces us to the Gilded Age, an era of industrialization. Prospects for wealth and happiness seem to be boundless. During this era, people are experiencing everything that is new and anything is possible.

The main stars of *Ragtime* are Coalhouse Walker Jr., (Richard Waits) a black musician with a dream to be more than a color, Tateh, (John Little) an immigrant from Latvia and aspiring ‘artist’ trying to provide for his daughter. Another character is Mother, (Leigh Barrett) the wife of a man who’s wealth was earned through fireworks and bunting. Important social and historical figures such as Henry Ford (Bob Dolan), Emma Goldman, (Gretchen Golsworthy), Booker T. Washington (Albert Christmas), J.P. Morgan (Marshall Munnis) and Harry Houdini (Josh Olkowski) make entry into *Ragtime*. Other roles in this piece were played by Tyler Rand, Dick Decareau, Wil Darcangelo, Jack Agnew, Josette Newsam, Kimberly Hannon, Karen Q. Clark, Jared Brown, Andrew Rhodes, Vincant Davis, Christopher McNeany, Masi Asare, Kerri Nicole Wilson, Steve Walsh, Dawn Tucker, Kristen Palson, Shana Carr, Kevin Brooks, Ryan Curtis, Matt Jones, and Allen Christopher.

This was by far the largest cast, 38 in total, that Foothills has had. The show opens with an exciting musical introduction of each character and continues with scene after scene of social injustices, comedy and brushes on the topic of sex whenever Miss Evelyn Nesbit (Trish Aponte) enters. Leaving the theater you may very well find yourself humming a tune from this show such as “Crime of the Century” or “Wheels of a Dream”. The scenes of Harlem are entertaining, crowds dance to the music of ragtime pianist Coalhouse Walker Jr. *Ragtime* isn’t just a musical, it’s a time, an era of change. This play helped me get the feel for the time, the troubles, the strife, the music, and the oncoming technologies, such as the automobile.

I had a chance to speak with the Director of Education for Foothills, Bob Dolan before the show. He mentioned how well *Ragtime* was doing, especially with a six-week run as opposed to the usual four-week showing Foothills regularly has. Mr.Dolan also informed me of the excellent advancement they’ve made with sound. Instead of using a normal recording or having a live orchestra they now use an OrchEXTRA. The OrchEXTRA uses a digital orchestration enabling the audience to hear the original orchestration combined with several “live” musicians in the theater. The conductor controls the tempo of each piece separately. This new technological advancement is only available for three musicals, *Ragtime*, *Music Man*, and *Footloose*. However, Mr. Dolan predicts that it won’t be long before many others are going to be using the OrchEXTRA.

Foothills Theater is getting to be a more interesting place. Not only are they going to show the fairly mainstream, conservative plays- primarily for the subscribers- but they are also putting up a new stage. It will be “younger, newer, and edgier” as stated by Dolan. There are classes available along with open arms for interns. Internships are also available for Business and Marketing Majors, not just Theater Arts.



# Music, Movies & More

## Heart Wrenching Trilogy Still On Best Sellers' Lists

by Amber Vayo, Co-editor in chief

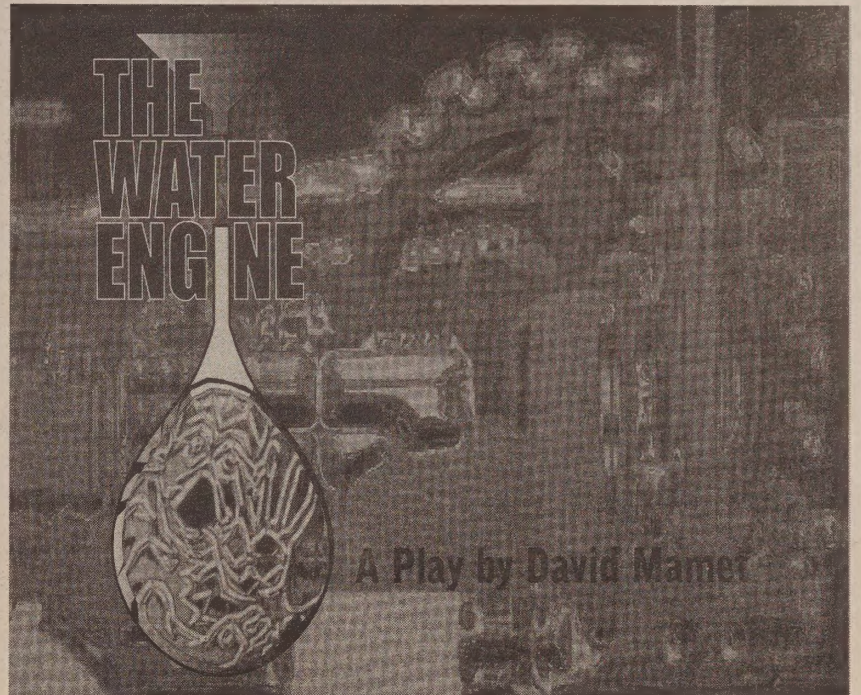
Rarely do books come along that are as touching and honest as the David Pelzer trilogy. *A Child Called It*, *The Lost Boy*, and *A Man Named Dave*. The three books are a guide through Pelzer's detrimental childhood, rocky adolescence, and adult life. *A Child Called It* shows Pelzer from ages four to twelve years old. In this book we are taken through the heart-wrenching abuses he suffered at the hands of his mother. *The Lost Boy* covers, ages twelve to eighteen, shows us Pelzer's travels through the foster care program and his desire to be emotionally free of his past. *A Man Named Dave* is the heartwarming conclusion of Pelzer's search for happiness.

*A Child Called It* is the graphic in content, but forces the reader to remember it is not fiction. Dave Pelzer lived in a time when child abuse was not discussed and no one interfered. His story shows us why, as a nation, we can never go back to that way of thinking. Pelzer gives us detailed descriptions of the torment his mother put him through and how he survived. Pelzer describes his mother's "games" and his father's need to escape by ignoring the situation. As his mother begins to refer to him as "It" we see Pelzer's need to survive overcome even his need to be loved and accepted. We meet several teachers and social workers who helped see him through.

*The Lost Boy* exposes the flaws and the benefits of the foster care system. We watch Pelzer go from home to home and see the different types of families he stays with. We are taken through Pelzer's rough adolescent years, made worse by the demons that keep appearing from his past. A few of Pelzer's foster families are driving influences in his life and are the only reasons he keeps going. Throughout this story Pelzer is haunted with self-doubt because of his past.

*A Man Named Dave* is the hopeful conclusion. Dave Pelzer makes peace with himself and his past and moves on with his life. We see him achieve his dream of becoming a pilot. We then meet his wife and son. Pelzer also describes the process of writing his book.

Through all three books I found a need to walk away from such anguish, but was unable. I wanted to hold the child called It, guide the lost boy, and congratulate the man named Dave. If you're in the mood to be presented with the worst life has to offer as well as the harsh realities and emotional and psychological torments of child abuse then this book is a place to start. If you're faint of heart and stomach, I would advise you to find another book.



## Defying Gravity: Our Lady Peace In Concert

by Dan Kilgour

Once in a while, a band will come along and score a major hit, then fade into obscurity for a few years, then return with another hit people will sing along to for years. Canadian rockers, Our Lady Peace, fall into this category. After scoring modern rock top 10's in the mid 1990's with songs like "Naveed" and "Superman's Dead," Our Lady Peace fell out of the American public eye for a few years. During this time, they recorded two other CD's that did not receive much airplay on American radio but were well received in their native Canada, eventually becoming underground hits in the States. With the release of their fifth CD *Gravity*, Our Lady Peace had finally seemed to attain the widespread popularity that they deserve, with their power ballad "Somewhere Out There" as well as their new single, "Innocent."

One of the main elements in the popularity of Our Lady Peace, is their live show. I had a chance to see them in Providence two summers ago and was I not that impressed with their act. However, their performance on October 16<sup>th</sup> at Worcester's Palladium Theatre was enough to convince me that they are truly a sight to see. After the hard rock outfit, fingertight, rumbled through an impressive set of six songs, the Juliana Theory took to the stage with their melodic rock act that was decent but certainly nothing special. After a thirty-minute layover, Our Lady Peace walked onstage to a rousing applause from the always-vivacious Palladium crowd. When the first few notes of the piano intro to "All For You" blared over the loudspeakers, the crowd went ballistic, and Our Lady Peace was well on its way to an awesome performance. After playing the second track from *Gravity*, "Do You Like It?" vocalist Raine Maida called for his trusty acoustic guitar and led his band mates through the crowd's favorite "Superman's Dead," with the crowd singing the final refrain note for note. After playing "Naveed" Our Lady Peace dove headfirst into their new songs, my personal favorite "Not Enough," as well as Maida going for his normal stage diving act during the song "One Man Army." After playing their hard hitting track "Whatever," the band settled into a mellow mode with songs like "Clumsy" and "Bring Back the Sun" before again performing heavier tracks, such as "Birdman" and "Starseed." As usual, Our Lady Peace followed up their set with a three song encore playing "In Repair," "Somewhere Out There" and closing with the crowd favorite "4 A.M."

For certain bands, one would expect the lead singer to be the dynamic presence, however, with Raine Maida's voice, Steve Mazur's and Ducan Coutt's dynamic guitar playing and Jeremy Taggart's unique drum talents, the wealth of stage presence is divided equally amongst all band members. When I saw Our Lady Peace in Providence they did not look choreographed. I am a firm believer that everything deserves a second chance and I am glad that I gave Our Lady Peace a second chance and saw them again, because it was well worth it.

## 12th Annual SGA Auction to Benefit the Homeless

December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2002 at 5:30pm.



Our goal this year is \$10,000. In order to reach and exceed our goal we need your help. Your donation of a product, service, or gift certificate is vital. All items that are donated items will be listed and publicized in pre-auction advertisements and are publicly acknowledged (unless you wish to donate anonymously).

Paul Joseph is the auctioneer, and the auction will be held in the Blue Lounge here at Worcester State College.

All proceeds will be going to Mustard Seed and Abbey House charities.

\*\*\*If you would like to volunteer to help with the auction or donate, please contact John Murphy or David Archambault for more information at (508)929-8655.



Melt  
By: Carrie Macphie

Striving to perfect the imperfections  
In my flawed psyche.  
Waiting to spin with arms outstretched,  
Blurring the picture  
Beyond recognition  
Lost in my thoughts  
Of when I was purple  
And my arms were tie-dyed with  
Orange and blur.  
Clumps of unused flowers  
Clung to my face  
As I screamed for the plants  
To devour my immortal soul  
Lightening cracks the dirty ground  
While I jump off my feet  
To immerse my hair in gold glitter,  
Hand picked by the most hypnotic voice  
That ever sang my pain away  
With words that ring true  
Of deep depression  
Mimicking love,  
But drawing in a world of hate  
The pied-piper of sexual loathing  
Shakes his black hair and grins.

Talkin' Flying Discus Blues  
By: Fauren Shore

I really want to play some Frisbee,  
It is truly such a perfect day.  
In half an hour you can kiss me;  
Pack your bags and be on your way.

I wouldn't think you would've brought one  
'cause I never made a request.  
So I went down to the mall and bought one;  
Now we can put it to the test.

Because Frisbees fly & Frisbees go;  
Yards of fun in just one throw.  
They get real high & the get low.  
But if mine works we'll never know...

'Cause you did not want to play Frisbee,  
on such a Frisbee playin' day.  
You packed your bags and said you'd miss me,  
And wished so much that you could stay.

Now Frisbee is hard with only one man,  
It's for two or three or a whole gang.  
It goes too far and it will not land.  
I should've bought a boomerang.

'Cause boomerangs fly around so free;  
Everyone below will see  
My boomerang come back to me.  
But it gets so lo-ne-ly.

And I only wanted to play Frisbee,  
It really was a sunny day.  
Maybe next time you'll play with me  
And fly these Frisbee blues away.

Reflection  
By: Ericka Brindisi

As I walk by the ocean  
I can see my reflection

It looks as if I'm drowning  
Or am I looking up from the water as if it was a mirror?

My reflection copies every move I make  
It's beautiful and happy, but am I drowning in my  
reflection?

"Lost"  
By: Erin Moriarty

Reflecting on my life is like driving the wrong way on a  
one way street  
I don't know where I'm going, and I don't know where I'm  
supposed to be

Trying to remember if I've ever had a dream is like digging  
for oil in a vast empty sea  
My recollections are a nightmare, my future is a puzzle  
with a missing piece

Unable to proceed without falling far behind  
Beginning to seriously reconsider trying to find my mind

I've clearly been misguided  
I need to find my way

I think I'll have to save that task for some other day.

Snow Lovers  
By: Caroline Mburu

SNOWBALLS! Flakes! Snowballs and flakes,  
Here there and every where, we throw to each other,  
Running helter skelter, squealing with glee,  
"Have I not pleased you my love?" I ask.  
"Yes!" you say, and my heart feels with joy.

A snowflake here and a snow ball there on my nose it flicks,  
As near you come and cup my face between your hands,  
And relish the kiss I bestow on your sweet lips.

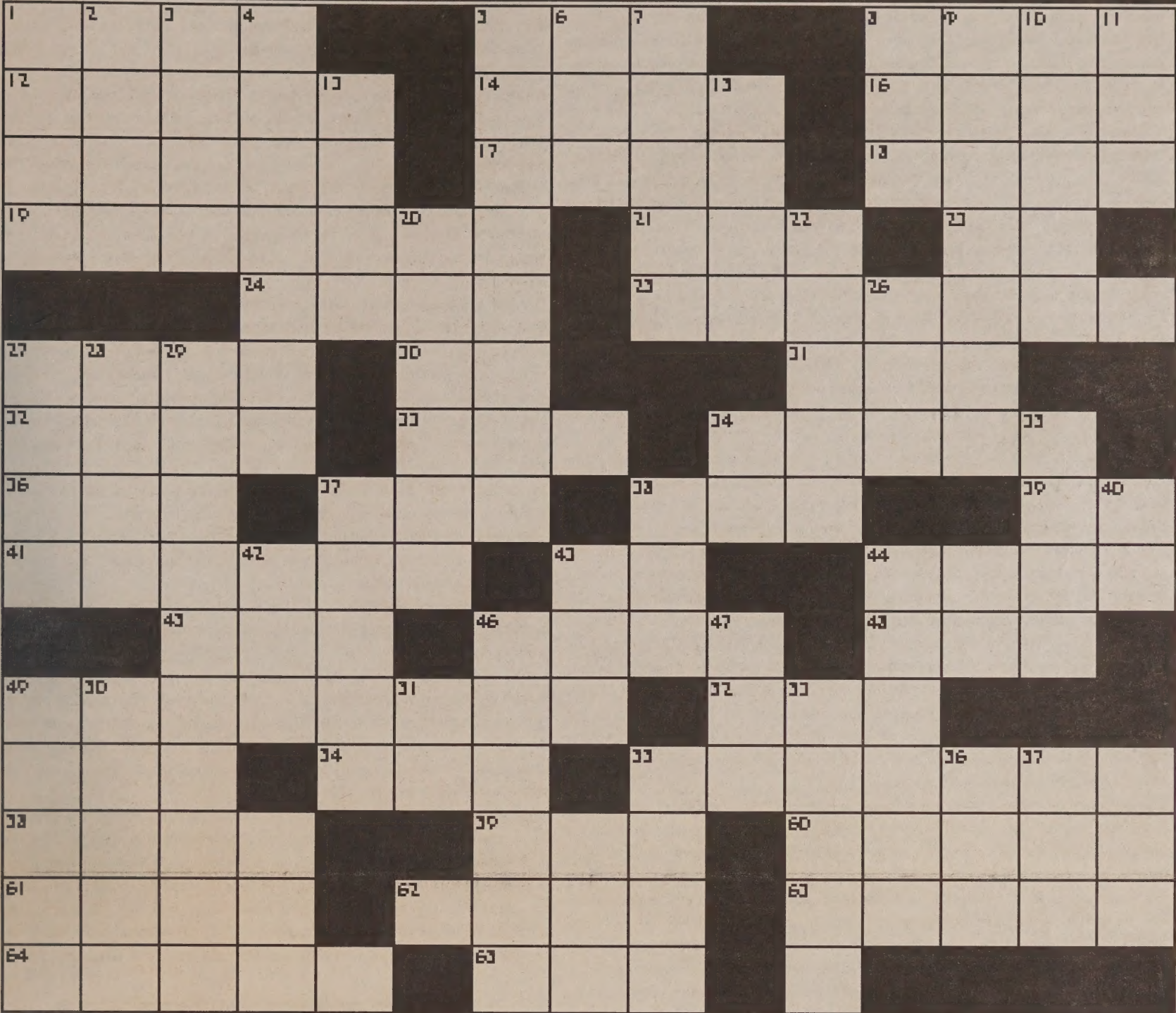
A flush escapes me on my cheeks, for love such as this have I felt not,  
But as I look at the deep brown pools of your eyes, so intense as they  
hold mine,  
My love for you flows even more, as you boyishly giggle with glee.

Against your chest you lay me there, my heart to rest fills with hope,  
For 'tis I not safe from all? And chills as those I've not felt a'fore.  
And then we pass on a secret smile, and all our hearts do, not to  
mellow,  
Is to call you my SWEET FOREVER MORE.

Mother always called us The Snow Lovers,  
For 'tis where our hearts bound to her,  
And snow she loved, as though there was none like it,  
And all she said when looking to the horizon,  
"There's no love, like SNOW LOVE MY CHILD"  
And off she drifts to dream of old age,  
With a knowing smile on her face.



# Crossword Puzzle



**Editors' note:** Some clues are intentionally unnumbered because they are not words. Thank you for bearing with us.

**DOWN**

- 1. to display
- 2. Zeus' wife
- 3. Paddles
- 4. To give
- 5. Leave in a boat
- 6. Hotel
- 7. Stems from which leaves arise
- 8. Triumphed
- 9. Scholarly
- 10. \_\_\_\_\_ and raves
- 11. South African golfer
- 13. darn!
- 15. to record
- 20. crazy
- 22. by one's self
- 26. fashion trend
- 27. exclamation of sorrow
- 28. go fly a...
- 29. presented to
- 34. United Nations (abbr.)
- 35. unit of paper
- 37. \_\_\_\_\_ the Giant
- 38. Lennon's Love
- 40. Texas Tech (abbr.)
- 42. suffix for URLs
- 43. single
- 44. a vast array
- 46. collectibles
- 47. World Trade Organization (abbr.)
- 49. beginning
- 50. Congrats!
- 51. Associated Pres (abbr.)
- 53. once more

- 55. wild cat
- 56. to weep
- 57. America On Line (abbr.)

**ACROSS**

- 1. place of business
- 5. a vice
- 8. once was
- 12. harkened
- 14. at once
- 16. of or pertaining to the mouth
- 17. a prefix meaning of
- 18. women of habit
- 19. a Christmas drink
- 21. Estimated Time of Arrival (abbr.)
- 23. detergent (abbr.)
- 24. a mountain in Italy
- 25. unsharing
- 27. related to
- 30. opposite of Northeast (abbr.)
- 31. grain
- 32. scraps of thread
- 33. an auto club (abbr.)
- 34. beneath

- 36. a phone company
- 37. one out of many
- 38. single
- 39. \_\_\_\_\_, the Extra-terrestrial
- 41. calm
- 43. atop
- 44. castels protective barrier
- 45. strange
- 46. frozen percipitation
- 48. that was good
- 49. stubborn
- 52. asfalt
- 54. Environmental Protection Agency (abbr.)
- 55. reasonable
- 58. potato \_\_\_\_\_
- 59. month following April
- 60. Moses' brother
- 61. nights
- 62. to turn in circles
- 63. a short pastoral poems
- 64. the day before tomorrow
- 65. one more than five

created by: Amber Vayo and friends

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The only way these damaging trends can be reversed is to unlock land for development, and de-regulate construction and building codes, and embark on a massive homebuilding campaign by encouraging growth. Again, the need and reasons for building new homes is momentous. Currently, only sixty-eight percent of households own a home in America. Based on the national average, approximately one million households are renting their living quarters in Massachusetts and Connecticut.

Unlocking land for housing developments will be a difficult task because it means easing up on ridiculous restrictions, building codes, laws, and conservation considerations that have been put into place by the organized interests of those in the conservation and environmental movements in the past twenty years.

There are many more reasons to take a serious look at the economic implications surrounding the conservation movement. A shrouded aspect of land conservation is that it leads to increased property taxes, plus increased income taxes for the citizens, especially in smaller towns. This has a negative impact on the local economy by making business enterprise less viable. For example, a new conservation tax has been made possible by the Community Preservation Act (CPA). CPA allows towns and cities to approve a referendum allowing them to levy a community-wide property tax surcharge of up to 3 percent for creating a local Preservation Fund and qualifying for state matching funds. This law creates a triple-hit on the taxpayer because the state provides matching funds to communities approving the CPA. That money comes out of the pockets of individuals and businesses through state withholding. Finally, the conserved land, which might have been occupied for useful living and business purposes, pays no taxes, requires staffing and maintenance to function as a park or education center, which robs the community of potential revenue forever.

This negative facet of anti-growth measures are actually opposite of what would be happening if massive amounts of homes were being built. Taxes would be going down instead of up, and quality of life would be improving and instead of growing worse, and future retirement years would look more promising.

All of the points brought up in this article are happening at a time when Massachusetts just passed a major tax hike, and also while state officials are considering another tax hike for next year in order to meet pressing budget requirements, including social services. These trends in taxation are also happening at a time when municipal workers' and teachers' unions have won major pay hikes for their members, pay hikes that were calculated on the strength of the economy. Every city and town across the state is now trying to figure out how they will meet the size of their education budget in future years. Eventually, something will have to give, and reports are coming in that senior citizens and the middle class families are being forced out of towns where they have lived for generations because they can't afford the high tax rates.

#### Ploys, Mis-representations and Emotions

The conservation movement is quick to use any ploy to scare people into conserving land, including the claim that allowing new homes to go up will increase the local tax burden and place a strain on the local school system. This ploy works every time, even though the opposite effect occurs when growth is allowed.

The damaging evidence about the real effects of conservation and environmentalism uncovered during this investigation suggest that in addition to inflated property and land costs, and higher taxes, the conservation movement is corrupted by self-interests and political causes tied to supporting a liberal agenda through far-reaching political machinery. A review of web sites connected with the conservation movement provides clear indications of political bias and socialist tendencies, especially visible because of a pronounced bashing of the Bush Administration.

These factors appear to have created an unhealthy level of group think that is more obsessed with gaining political power at the expense of economic growth, which is leading to less opportunities for the middle and lower class, especially the opportunity to achieve the so-called "American Dream" of owning a home.

In stark contrast to the assertions of people involved with the conservation movement, facts gathered from government data resources, as well as road trips around the Massachusetts and Connecticut during the month of September indicate that most land in Massachusetts and Connecticut remains undeveloped, even three-hundred years after the Pilgrims arrived at Plymouth Rock.

The perceived extent of development, and perceived damage to the environment caused by human amassment is a direct consequence of public relations campaigns by conservation and environmentalist groups in the state. Their campaigns often present a picture that suggests Massachusetts and surrounding states are about to run out of land, when in reality, the opposite is true. The false perception presented to the public may be a product of personal perspective, activism, and misinformation, but any one of those three factors have contributed to convincing a significant number of citizens that we are overcrowded and running out of land.

MASSPIRG literature claims that 44-acres of land is "lost" every day to development in Massachusetts, and the Audubon Society fund raising letter sent out during September uses the following words when presenting its request for donations; "an alarming and accelerating trend everywhere: the open spaces of Massachusetts are disappearing!"

One false claim being made by people in the conservation movement is that land in Eastern Connecticut is "the last green valley between here and Washington." With wild claims such as these, one could almost expect to see the jolly green giant jump out of the woods somewhere near the Foxwoods Casino and ask that his land be protected or the supply of green beans will run out.

#### Massachusetts Is Still Mostly Undeveloped

Research indicates that Massachusetts has about 5.5 million acres of land. Current density and growth uses less than 2 million acres. At the current rate of growth, it might take another three hundred years for the state to become completely developed, which suggests the sky is not falling as activists claim.

The fact that so much misinformation and selfish motives exists within this topic, seems to demand that important information be repeated often, so here it is again: In all real-

ity, and despite the claims that we are running out of land, Massachusetts and Connecticut are only about thirty-five percent developed. Of that thirty-five percent, none of the land is actually "lost," as it is being utilized in one form or another by the good people of the area.

The growth of the conservation and environmental political causes has been made easier through the use of abstract themes, concepts and romantic notions that includes references to the beauty of wild animals, birds, green valleys and nature. These themes serve to generate sympathy for the cause, allowing it to grow unchallenged by serious and honest intellectual debate. The Trust For Public Land recommends that direct mail campaigns evoke emotions from people rather than logic in order to win voter and public support for their initiatives. Their campaign handbook states, "Fortunately, land conservation is an issue that can attract attention; images of treasured or threatened lands, sprawl and degradation can be powerful in direct mail, newspaper, or television advertising. If one particular piece of land, animal, trees, lake or river evokes strong emotions, use it throughout your mail."

Examples of romantic themes that stimulate emotional appeal in place of logic are easy to spot in fund-raising literature, and include words such as wildlife, birds, animals, wetlands, mysterious vernal pools, sweeping hills, breathtaking vistas, sandy beaches, green spaces, childhood play grounds, endangered species, recreation opportunities for the public. The mysterious and magical vernal pool was recently used by conservationists and environmentalists in Worcester to prevent a much-needed vocational high school from being built in Green Hill Park.

In addition to the use of flowery language aimed at people's emotions, conservation entities also succeed in making villains out of individuals or corporations who announce plans to build business parks or housing developments. The word developers has become almost as evil as the word corporation in the American psyche and political debate.

After closely examining the trend and forces behind land conservation, it shouldn't be hard to have extra appreciation for land the next time you step outside and walk upon it.

#### Let Freedom Ring, Provide The Ultimate Opportunity

If land is not going away anytime soon, there is probably little reason to leave it sitting vacant without caring for it, living on it, and enjoying it. To make this happen, and save the region from an approaching economic collapse, it seems critical for community leaders to put selfish interests aside, get involved, and stay involved as fast as possible.

There is nothing wrong with preserving five or ten acres here or there, but the focus must be on a future vision that includes building nice straight roads into undeveloped areas, then helping economic forces go to work in developing it further. When affordable houses are built in great numbers, businesses will follow, and economies will be stimulated. Small towns will thrive instead of withering on the grapevine as they are now, and it will become more likely that everyone will have the opportunity to achieve the American Dream.

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